



Most Urgent
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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the Muslim devotees to say their prayers and offer munajat staying at respective homes on the night of the holy Shab-e-Barat. They greeted all Muslims in Bangladesh and elsewhere across the world on the occasion of the holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune, to be observed today. In his message, President Md. Abdul Hamid said in the wake of novel coronavirus outbreak, it is a must to follow the health guidelines and ensure social distancing. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in her message, said the night of fortune brings Marcy and blessings of Almighty Allah for the whole mankind. The Premier urged all to devote themselves to human welfare and nation-building imbued with the teachings of Shab-e-Barat. Sheikh Hasina also called upon all to establish the spirit of Islam at personal, social and national levels shunning the religious prejudice and narrowness.

The coronavirus claimed 3 more lives and infected 54 others in the last 24 hours increasing the toll to 20 and number of infected people to 218 in the country while 123 of them were found in Dhaka. IEDCR in its virtual media briefing yesterday informed among the new COVID-19 cases, 39 are in Dhaka and others are in different districts. Of the fresh COVID-19 cases, 33 are male and 21 female. Additional Director General of DGHS Prof Dr Sania Tahmina said 68,324 people were so far kept at both home and institutional quarantine, and the number of people remain currently in quarantine is 10157 as rests were released after medical clearance.

Bangladesh has urged China to send an expert medical team comprising doctors, nurses and technicians to handle and treat COVID-19 patients as well as provide training to Bangladeshi medical professionals. Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen made the request to his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi during a telephone conversation, a foreign office press release said yesterday. During the telephone conversation, Momen also discussed the possibility of importing ventilation machines from China during this critical moment of the coronavirus outbreak in Bangladesh. The Chinese foreign minister responded positively and assured him of their full support to Bangladesh.

Islamic Foundation in an official statement yesterday urged the country's people, including ulema-mashayekhs to offer special prayers staying home on the night of Shab-e-Barat today to get rid of the global pandemic coronavirus and not to visit graveyards and shrines on the occasion.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has thrown out the appeal for mercy by Abdul Mazed, the death row killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, removing the last hurdle to the former serviceman's hanging. President rejected Mazed's plea after it reached the president's residence last night, hours after the convict filed the petition. Earlier the District and Sessions Judge Court issued death warrant against him. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader in a virtual press briefing from his residence yesterday said his party Awami League wanted quick execution of death penalty against convicted dismissed captain Abdul Majed for killing Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his most of the family members in 1975 as there is no legal obstacle to execute the verdict.

Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Commerce Tofail Ahmed said the arrest of Bangabandhu's killer Captain (dismissed) Abdul Majed on Monday gave the nation a sigh of relief. The bloody misdeeds of this military man knew no bounds. This man tortured me and killed my personal secretary Shafiqul Alam Mintu, an admin cadre officer of 1973 BCS.

The arrest of Captain Abdul Majed helps ease my pains and a quick implementation of the court's order sentencing him to death will largely heal my bruises. Before it, he should be put on interrogation, if there is any scope, to know whereabouts of other fugitive killers.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given direction to ensure providing food assistance to the socially backward people like jobless labourers and workers, rickshaw and van-cart pullers, beggars, divorcees and widows and hijra community people to take special care and stand beside them amid COVID-19 situation. She also suggested all people to remain at home properly abiding by the 31-point directions of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to prevent COVID-19 spread. Speaker said this yesterday in a message on the occasion of distributing food package among 350 people of Pirganj upazila of Rangpur sponsored from her personal fund.

State Ministry for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmad Palak inaugurated a campaign titled "Bangladesh Challenge" through a virtual press conference yesterday afternoon. It has been launched to empower the youths to enrich the Google Maps and Open Street Maps inserting community locations like pharmacies, supermarkets and convenience stores and mobile phone recharge and cash-out points and their hours of operation staying at homes in a bid to help the people track down the locations easily during the country's locked down situation triggered by COVID-19. The a2i under the ICT Division and the Cabinet Division in association with the UNDP and Grameenphone has initiated the campaign.

The government has appointed Dr Benazir Ahmed, Director General of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), as the new inspector general of police (IGP). The Home Ministry issued circular will come into effect from April 15. Besides, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun has been appointed as the new DG of RAB.

The government has extended the deadline for the registration of Hajj pilgrims till April 16 next under both government and private arrangements. All new intending pilgrims, including the pre-registered ones, will be able to register within the timeframe, said a press release of the religious affairs ministry yesterday.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday reached foods to 1,587 people at their doorsteps responding to phone calls at its hotline numbers. The DSCC authority requested citizens who need food to make phone calls at its hotline numbers— 01709900703 and 01709900704— for making registration.

A grouping of six South and South-East Asian RMG and textile product producers' associations including Bangladesh's BGMEA and BKMEA yesterday urged global brands, retailers and traders to act responsibly regarding their purchase orders as the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the entire world.

The US Department of State and US Embassy in Dhaka are working to arrange a potential third, may be the final, US government organized chartered flight for US citizens and their families who are willing to return to the US. The US Embassy is targeting Monday (April 13) for the departure date. British and Australian governments have also taken initiatives to take their citizens from Bangladesh who are willing to return to their respective countries by chartered flights from Dhaka. The Australian High Commission in Dhaka arranged a chartered flight of Sri Lankan Airlines which will leave Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on April 16.


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